



Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving

a division of the



What should I do if a law enforcement officer stops me?

- 1. Pull off to the right side of the roadway and position your vehicle as far out of the driving lane as possible.
- 2. Turn off your engine, radio, CD/tape player and any other device that might interrupt your communication with the officer.
- 3. If it's dark outside, turn on your hazard lights and the vehicle's interior lights so the officer can easily see that everything is in order.
- 4. Roll down your window so you and the officer can communicate.
- 5. Remain calm and ask all passengers to remain quiet and calm as well.
- Keep your safety belt fastened and ask all passengers to keep their safety belts fastened as well, so the officer can see that you were buckled up.
- 7. Stay in your seat and do not exit the vehicle unless the officer instructs you to do so.
- 8. Keep your hands in plain view, preferably on the steering wheel, and ask all passengers to keep their hands in plain view as well.
- 9. Do not make any movement that the officer might interpret as you hiding or searching for something.
- 10. Carry proper identification (valid driver's license and proof of insurance).
- 11. If the officer asks you for those documents, tell the officer where they are and slowly reach for them.
- 12. Answer the officer's questions fully and clearly.
- 13. If the charge or citation is unclear, ask the officer for an explanation in a respectful manner.
- 14. In addition, ask the officer for identification if he/she doesn't have his/her uniform on or the patrol vehicle does not have official law enforcement markings.
- 15. Answer the officer's questions, and ask your own questions in a calm and courteous manner. If you disagree with the citation or the officer's actions, do not discuss your point of view at that time. Wait to argue your point before a judge in court.

These tips were provided by the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.